

What is claimed is:

1. An optical module locking mechanism for locking a case forming part of an optical module which contains elements for making optical communications and a cage for housing said case to each other, said
5 mechanism comprising:
 - a locking member swingably arranged in said case;
 - locking means for locking said locking member and said cage to each other;
 - a lever pivotably arranged on said case, said lever capable of
10 moving said locking member to release a locking state of said locking means; and
 - urging means for urging said locking member to bring said locking means into the locking state when said case is housed in said cage, wherein said locking means is released from the locking state
15 by pulling said lever in a direction in which said optical module housed in said cage is drawn out of said cage.
2. The optical module locking mechanism according to claim 1, wherein:
20 said locking means comprises an locking hole formed through said cage, and an locking protrusion formed on said locking member for insertion into said locking hole.
3. The optical module locking mechanism according to claim 1, wherein:
25 said direction in which said optical module housed in said cage

is drawn out of said cage is in front of a front end surface of said case, and
said lever is movable over an extent which is within a region in
front of the front end surface of said case.

5 4. The optical module locking mechanism according to claim 3,
wherein:

 said extent over which said lever is movable is defined within a
region between an extension of a topmost surface of said case in front of the
front end surface of said case and an extension of a lowermost surface of
10 said case in front of the front end surface of said case.

 5. The optical module locking mechanism according to claim 1,
wherein:

 said case includes a stopper for locking said lever at a
15 predetermined position relative to said case, and said lever is brought to a
position projecting in front of the front end surface of said case when said
lever is released from the lock by said stopper.

 6. The optical module locking mechanism according to claim 2,
20 wherein:

 said lever is arranged for pivotal movement about a pivotal
shaft supported in a first groove formed in said case, and said locking
member is arranged to swing about a shaft supported in a second groove
formed in said case, and

25 said locking member includes a front section disposed on the
front side of said case from said shaft and pushed by said lever, and a rear

section disposed on the rear side of said case from said shaft and having said locking protrusion.

5 7. The optical module locking mechanism according to claim 6, wherein:

 said locking member includes shoulders on said front section against which said lever abuts when said lever projects in front of said case.

10 8. The optical module locking mechanism according to claim 6, wherein:

 said urging means consists of a spring portion for urging said rear section of said locking member to bring said locking protrusion to a position at which said locking protrusion is fitted into said locking hole.

15 9. The optical module locking mechanism according to claim 6, wherein:

 said first groove is formed such that said pivotal shaft is movable between a first position at which said pivotal shaft is situated when said locking protrusion is fitted in said locking hole and a second position at which said pivotal shaft is situated when said lever is pulled in front of said case; and

20 said locking member includes a cam face formed in said front section such that said pivotal shaft pushes said front section as said pivotal shaft is moved from said first position to said second position within said first
25 groove.

10. The optical module locking mechanism according to claim 1,
wherein:

said case includes a connection port in its front end surface for
connection to a connector to which a cable is connected; and

5 said lever excludes a portion which would interfere with said
cable extending from said connector connected to said connection port when
said lever is manipulated.

10 11. The optical module locking mechanism according to claim 10,
wherein:

 said lever abuts against said connector as said optical module
is moved in a direction in which said optical module is drawn out of said cage
when said connector is in connection to said connection port, so that said
lever is prevented from moving to a position at which said locking means is
15 released from the locking state.